

Gather at the Mercy Tree – The invitation to “come, gather at the mercy tree” is heard throughout this tender anthem by Lee and Susan Dengler. Singers and listeners alike are called to the place where love, grace, wholeness and healing abound. Focusing on the cross of Calvary (the “mercy tree”), this offering is quite suitable for Holy Week and Good Friday, but would also be appropriate for any Sunday during the Lenten season, as well as any worship service that involves communion. The warm 4-part writing, supported by the flowing piano accompaniment, begins rather quietly, but moves into highly dramatic material before culminating in a reflective and worshipful ending. Scriptures that correspond well with this anthem are Titus 3:4-5, Ephesians 2:4-5, Luke 1:68-79, Isaiah 55:5-9, along with all passages from the gospels that focus on the crucifixion of Christ.

Lee Dengler is a composer and arranger with over 400 published choral anthems, books for vocal and piano solos, Christmas and Holy Week cantatas and children’s musicals to his credit. He studied vocal composition and arranging with Alice Parker and received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from West Chester University in West Chester, PA. He taught voice and composition at Goshen College and served on the pastoral team as Minister of Music at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana for many years. He was also director of the Goshen Community Chorale for 17 years. Lee is a free-lance music editor and engraver.

Susan Naus Dengler is a free-lance writer, and has written hundreds of anthem lyrics, devotions, lesson plans and narrations for church choral programs, and has created a comprehensive children’s arts curriculum for churches. She is sought after as a soprano soloist and children’s choir conductor, and was founding director of The Children’s Choir of Michiana. Susan received degrees in Music Education from West Chester University, and Church Music and Vocal Performance from Valparaiso University. She taught voice-related courses at Goshen College, maintained a private voice studio at Fairfield Jr/Sr High School, and served as Minister of Music, Arts and Worship at College Mennonite Church for many years.

GATHER AT THE MERCY TREE

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by
LEE DENGLER

Expressively, with freedom (♩ = ca. 80)

ACCOMP. *mp*

3 SOPRANO / ALTO *rit.* *mp*
TENOR / BASS *mp*
Come

3 *f* *rit.* *mp*

6 *a tempo*
gath - er at the mer - cy tree, where love a-bounds and

6 *a tempo*

* To purchase a full-length performance recording (46227) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.

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grace is free. Come bring your cares. Bring all your loss, and

mf

mf

12 be made whole at Cal'vry's cross. Christ paid the price,

mp *rit.* **14** *a tempo* *mp* *mf*

Christ paid the price, our

mp *rit.* *mf* **14** *a tempo*

15 our souls to save. This sac - ri - fice He

souls to save. This sac - ri - fice He

17

free - ly gave. A - maz - ing love, how

free - ly gave. A - maz - ing love, how

19

mf
can it be that Je - sus died for

can it be, that Je - sus died for

21

rit. *mp* *mf*
you and me? Come

you and me?

a tempo

rit. *mp*

24

un - to Him and rest.

mf

Here at the cross you will be

24

mf

27

Sal - va - tion full, sal - va - tion free is

blest.

30

flow - ing from the mer - cy tree. So

rit. *mf*

mf

mp *rit.* *f* *mf*

34

a tempo

come and ling - er, know His grace. See sweet com - pas - sion

34

a tempo

37

on His face. Find love and par - don in this place.

40

f There's heal - ing at the mer - cy

ff with passion

43

tree. Let prais-es now be - gin

with passion

43

Lift up your voice and sing. Re - joice, give thanks to

our Re - deem - er King! With grate-ful hearts, come

51

molto rit.

mf

53 *a tempo*

wor - ship Him. Let all the world He

Let all the world

53 *a tempo*

molto rit.

mp

mf

54

came to save, let all for whom His

He came to save, let all for whom His

56

life He gave, let all who no more

life He gave, let all who no more

58

60 Slower (♩ = ca. 72)

mp *rit.*
 fear the grave come gath-er now, in
 mp

60 Slower (♩ = ca. 72)
 mp

61

mf

wor-ship bow; your voic-es raise in songs of praise. Come
 mf

mf

64

mp

rit.

p

gath-er at the mer-cy tree.
 mp *p*

mp *rit.* *p*

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